

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP), who has been a real leader in this effort; and I appreciate what he has done.

I just want to say a couple of things. I cannot get into the architectural or the engineering problems here. I remember in 1939, I am old enough to remember that, that they had the same arguments as far as the Jefferson Memorial. It would be ruining the tidal basin and everything like that. I do not believe that for a minute, and it has not proved to be so.

I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in May of 1944. I was proud of that. There are an awful lot of us who are still around, a dwindling number, who want to see something. We have the Vietnam Memorial, we have the Korean Memorial, but we do not a World War II memorial.

Frankly, there are hundreds of thousands of people who believe this and who have contributed: fraternal organizations, foundations, corporations. I have a VFW post, number 524, in my little town of Corning, which is about 12,500 people, which has raised more money than any other small VFW post in the whole country. They really believe in this. There are people out there, not intellectualizing about this, but who have a piece of their skin in this issue. They want to have something done. I would like to have something done, and I would like to have something done before I die.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Stump legislation to construct the World War II memorial exactly where it should be, as a memorial to the victory of liberty over tyranny in the 20th century, between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial, exactly where it should be placed, so that freedom from the 18th, the 19th, and 20th centuries will be celebrated along our avenue of democracy. It has now taken longer to approve this memorial, three times longer, actually, than it did to fight the war.

It is time for America to say "thank you" to our greatest generation, and to make it more than words. The public has a new-found fascination with the World War II generation, thanks to Tom Brokaw's book, movies such as "Saving Private Ryan," and other commemorations of our Nation's finest hour.

Outside the beltway, more than half a million Americans have responded to a national fund-raising appeal by contributing more than \$150 million to the World War II Memorial project. In fact, just this past week, in my district, I returned to accept a check from schoolchildren, 7th and 8th graders at Anthony Wayne, Jr. School for \$2,154 to contribute to the memorial's construc-

tion. Young people, the children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren who have been given the freedom we have today are contributing across this country. We owe them and their predecessors the kind of thanks that a grateful Nation expresses. Unfortunately, this project has been snarled in a new round of political tussling and legal wrangling inside this beltway.

I do not question the motives of the memorial's opponents, but it is time to move forward. There have been 22 public hearings by organizations like the National Capital Planning Commission, the Fine Arts Commission approving the construction of this memorial. The money has been raised and it is on deposit. All the respective legislation has been passed. Both Chambers of this Congress have said yes, yes, yes. Over 8 years, we have said yes. The ground has been dedicated. It is time to move forward with construction of the World War II memorial at the Rainbow Pool site. I say that not just as a Member of Congress, but as a city planner that helped take a look at the site, that has worked with the architects to make sure that the design was appropriate, blocking no views; and all public input has made this a better design than we began with originally.

Of the 16 million veterans who served during World War II, approximately 5 million still survive. Every day, approximately 1,100 World War II veterans pass away, never to see the memorial in Washington that will stand as testimony to what they did for us, with the heroism and the self-sacrifice that have given us a new generation of children of freedom.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, to move forward with construction of the World War II memorial. The time for delay is over. We not only honor our World War II veterans during this Armed Services Week in doing so, but we also say, we understand the cause for which they fought and it deserves recognition on the central part of our mall, complementing what we have done for the 18th century, the 19th century, and finally, the 20th century.

Support the Stump bill, H.R. 1696.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER).

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I would like to say that myself and the other two Members that have spoken on this side of the aisle all joined World War II when we were 17 years old. My wife and I have read on a daily basis the number of World War II veterans that are dying at the rate of 1,000 a day; and those that do not believe that, just look at the obituary columns in the newspaper.

Let me cite some of the reasons people give for not building this wonderful building. Critics claim that the memorial was approved behind closed doors by a small group of individuals without regard to the law. That is not true.

Critics claim that the memorial would desecrate grounds made sacred by the civil rights movement and would greatly impede and prevent future public gatherings and marches in the vicinity of Washington and Lincoln. That is not true.

Critics claim that the memorial will block the mall's open space between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial, inhibiting pedestrians from walking through this part of the mall. That is not true. The design allows open flow of visitors between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial.

Critics claim that the memorial would destroy the historic Rainbow Pool. That is not true. The Rainbow Pool will be lowered and rebuilt in its historic configuration. The pool's waterworks, which have not functioned for decades, will be restored to their original splendor. The Rainbow Pool will earn greater historic significance as the centerpiece of the only memorial to a 20th century event commemorated on the main axis of the mall.

Critics claim that the design echoes the Nazi Fascist architectural language of triumph and public spectacle. That is not true.

Critics claim that the World War II memorial is being built on ground that is part of the Lincoln Memorial, and that is not true.

I say to my colleagues, there are millions of reasons why this should be done, but every day there are fewer and fewer of us around that really can deliver the purpose that these people died for. I would like to say we have waited long enough. It is time that we pass this bill. Let us vote for it.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD).

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I, first of all, want to rise in strong support of H.R. 1696, which would expedite the construction of the World War II memorial in Washington, D.C. I certainly want to thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP), for his leadership in bringing this very important resolution to the floor today. I would also like to recognize the other World War II veterans who are still in the House of Representatives, including the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP), who did spend some time in Guam during World War II, and especially the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), who also spent a significant amount of time in Guam during World War II.

The generation of Americans that fought and sacrificed during World War II deserve proper meaningful, and immediate recognition. A national monument should memorialize the spirit and the sacrifice and the unit of the American people in what was a chaotic and challenging time in world history; and after several years of planning, organization, massive public input, and creative efforts by various groups, this